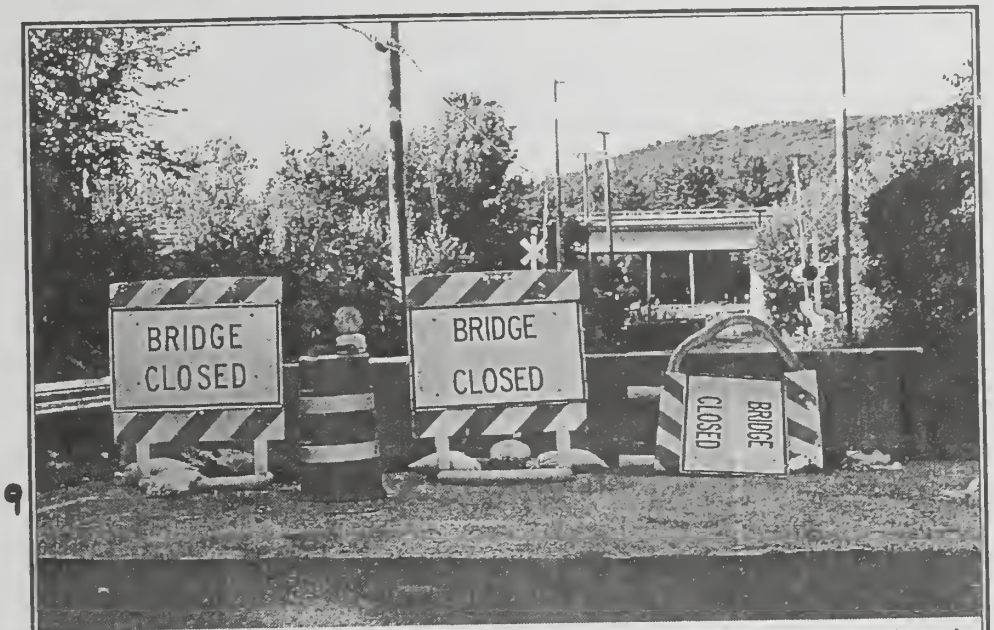
WENDELL POST



TROUBLED BRIDGE — The Wendell Depot bridge has been closed for approximately four years, and the detour is narrow, winding and dangerous. Residents of Wendell are concerned about the bridge's future. Photo by Salls

AUG./
SEPT./OCT. '99

VOL. 23 #4

50¢ (cheap)

Another summer has passed. The bridge in Wendell Depot remains unfinished. The construction site appears abandoned. The prospect of another winter using the dangerous, winding, blind and steep turns of the detour looms ahead.

Josh Heineman has been seeking answers to when citizens of Wendell can expect a bridge to the world again. Here is his report:

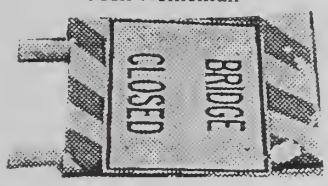
None of the calls I made this spring to the Public Affairs Office of the Mass Highways Dept. (617-973-7889) got me any answer about the Wendell Depot Bridge. I did not expect information to be on top of the pile, but none of the promised return calls came.

In June, Dan Bacigalupo, Wendell Highway Dept. Superintendent, told us informally that he had been told construction would start July 15.

In early August, town officials and Orange town officials met with representatives of the State. They were told that construction would begin soon, late August.

In the last week of August, articles in both the *Recorder*, and *The Athol Daily News* said that an additional $400,000 had been given to the project and that construction would begin in September, and be complete by the winter of...

Josh Heineman



WENDELL HISTORICAL EVENT

Deborah Wendell visits Wendell!

August 18, 1999—Wendell Free Library.

Just who *is* Deborah Wendell? She is the direct descendant of Judge Oliver Wendell (1733–1818) for whom our town is named. Judge Oliver Wendell provided funds for the founding of Wendell and presented a small silver bowl to the town in honor of its being named after him.

Deborah showed Rosie Heidkamp (librarian), Jean Forward (Wendell Historical Commission), Ted Lewis (Selectboard), and Mez Ziemba (Wendell Post, Wendell Recreation Committee) an extensive and intricately precise family tree of the Wendell Family. In fact their family tree can be traced all the way back to Charlemagne, 400 A.D.!

Deborah was so charmed by Wendell, she has agreed to come back and speak.

–Mez Ziemba

Town Crews Out in the Storm

Road Boss Danny Bacigalupo describes how he watched the storm take the roads apart "All week we were preparing, making sure all the culverts were open. Thursday night we got the rains. Lots of rain. We kept running around the roads making sure everything was open. Even though the culverts were open, there was just so much water, nothing could take care of it. By Friday morning, everything was washed out. There wasn't anything we could do but watch it go. We were out in it all night with the Police Dept. running around with us, putting up flares and barricades."

He describes how the beaver dams filled up and spilled over into the beaver dam pools below them and on into the ones below them, especially on Farley Road. "The culverts couldn't take the water, and down the road it went, 15 feet deep along the road, 50-70 feet wide."

Continued page 10

TOWN OF WENDELL

NEW SELECTBOARD MEETING TIME

Beginning September 15, 1999, the Selectboard will be meeting on **Wednesdays** at 7:00 pm in the Selectboard Office.

CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

Presented in Memory of

MARJORIE LEWIS

At

Old Home Day

August 1999

Wendell, Massachusetts

"The gentle mind by gentle deeds is known"

Edmund Spenser

WENDELL POST

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POST ARTICLE INSTRUCTIONS

Please send submissions to Wendell Post, P.O. Box 113, Wendell, MA 01379
All articles and letters submitted to the Post for publication need to be signed. If you have a computer, you can help by setting them in our style: **3 ¾" wide, 12 point font size, standard font.** Indent three spaces for paragraphs, and do not use an extra space between paragraphs. Please be brief, to share our limited space. If you have questions, call a Post staffer.

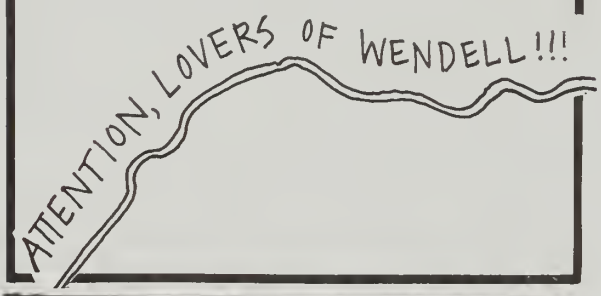
Articles: The Post welcomes signed, concise articles about topics of interest to Wendell.

Letters: The Post accepts brief letters. Remember, passion doesn't need to be mean.

Artwork: Local artwork lovingly accepted. Must be in shiny black ink.

Ads: $7.50 per business card!

We now have an e-mail address! Write us or submit articles to wendellpost@yahoo.com



Letters

To the Post Readers,

I've been thinking a lot lately about the impact we as individuals have on each other. At times I think that we feel insignifieant. Yet what I've seen of people and their actions is they affect not only those that are elose to them but people they may not know very well. This impact ean be life changing. Perhaps it's the couple I overheard at the store about giving up on the government or maybe it's the person who saves his newspapers for a woman across town to read or the ripple affeet of someone dying unexpectedly.

When I think of these different ineidents I find it interesting to see what my mind does with these memories. I know that I am the type of person that usually feels things deeply, that it takes awhile for things to process their way through my mind and settle into what I do with what I have learned.

In elosing what I want to leave you with is knowing that we each have the ability to make a difference in someone's life – it may not be glorious it could just be a comforting feeling someone may carry with them for awhile. If we ean remember that our aetions do eount, then perhaps knowing this can help us live our lives more eonsciously.

Anne Diemand

Building Community Spirit

A sense of eommunity---that seeure, home-like feeling of attaehment to a plaee and to a people that feels like an extended family---ean not be based on agreement. Rather, it comes with and through the caring respect good neighbors give. To have it, you must give it.

Creationism:
Does this look like Kansas?

It is clear to me that Darwinian theory has a substantial validity, but it is improbable that it is an entirely adequate theory. Given that flower "x" must be serviced by—and only by—insect "y" in order to procreate; it is highly improbable (though possible) that two successfully symbiotic and random sets of mutations would occur simultaneously in different species from different phyla.

Is the evidence that life mindlessly emerged in a primal soup really more compelling than the evidence that intelligence may guide creative process?

It seems to me that anyone who puts all their intellectual "eggs" in either theoretical "basket" is making a leap of faith.

Personally, I'm willing to believe that, not merely man, but all of Creation, was made in the "image" of the Creator, and that Charles Darwin shed some light on the mechanics.

–Parker Cleveland

Ya Never Know

I had a real surprise—a kind of a door prize at the Town Office Building. I was just going about my business when I saw some trash by the entry way. I hesitated momentarily and decided to pick it up. Why not? I found $2.00 under it! What's this, I thought, Candid Camera? With apprehension I looked furtively around. Nobody. Not even a smile.

So when you see some trash, you'd better look under it. You just never know where or when the Trash Fairy may strike again.

–Parker Cleveland

Vital Statistics

Birth Announcement

Dante Traub Citino was born August 18, 1999. His parents are Karen Traub and Frank Citino. His big brother is Teryn Traub Citino. The family says "Thank you" to friends and the Wendell community for welcoming Dante with love and joy and blessings.

DAVID R. FUGERE

David Fugere of 97 Wendell Depot Rd. died Sunday, September 5, 1999. He was born on March 28, 1965 in Montague City and graduated from the Franklin County Technieal School.

David lived in Wendell since 1987. He enjoyed boating, motorcyeles, auto body work, restoring old cars and furniture and his family and friends. He owned and operated Dave's Trucking.

David leaves his wife, Kathy (Puekey); his son, Shane at home; his step-son, Billy Fiske of Shutesbury; his father, Donald of South Yarmouth; his mother, Barbara (Foster) of Turners Falls; two brothers, Paul of Millers Falls and Christopher of Turners Falls; three sisters, Mary Lou Galbraith and Donna Ewell, both of Turners Falls and Laurie Gray of Cornville, Arizona, a granddaughter, several aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Shane A. Fugere Scholarship Fund e/o Flect Bank, Orange, MA 01364.

It's hard to sum up someone's life in a eolumn in a newspaper. There are so many things that only David's family and elose friends know.

What I do know is that the hole that he has left is too large to know how to deal with. Most folks say that time heals all wounds; this one is going to take a long time.

When I think of David, what comes to mind is his smile, him having a good time and his family. What his son, Shane remembers is how mueh everyone loved his Dad.

A. D.

Historical Commission Fundraisers Scheduled

The Historieal Commission has a Coffeehouse, April 15, 2000 (Anatolia plays!) to raise funds to preserve historieal buildings in Wendell including the Sereetzer House and the Meeting House.

If interested, call Jean at 544-7502 for further information.

Mez Ziemba

Hot Tip from Chef Myron....Try Panda Garden In Northampton, across from the Pleasant St. Theater GO FOR THE CHEF RICHARD'S SPECIALS If you love authentic Chinese Cuisine, you will be delighted

Citizen of the Year Award

Marge Lewis

Old Home Day

The Selectboard has asked Anne Diemand and me to present this year's Citizen of the Year Award. As you know this is an award made every year at Old Home Day to a Wendell Citizen who has made exemplary contributions to the community. You will soon see a plaque here in the town hall with the names of all past recipients of the Citizen of the Year Award. This year, at the suggestion of a Wendell resident, the Board agreed to do something a bit unusual and has chosen to present the Citizen of the Year Award posthumously in memory of Marge Lewis, Ted Lewis's beloved wife, who died earlier this year.

Marge Lewis was a Wendell homegirl. Born a Powling, she grew up, lived all of her life, and died right here on West Street. Ted told me once Marge loved to travel—if she could spend the night in her own bed at home. She was what you might called rooted—rooted in family, friends, and community.

Marge Lewis made Wendell a better place for all of us in ways we can never measure. Yes, we saw her assisting at every town and national election. And she often held a ladder or bucket of paint for some town project. In recent years she was an active member of the Golden Agers who have honored her memory with the handsome stone benches here in the corner of the common. Unknown to most of us Marge was a town historian, faithfully keeping a journal, as her mother had before her, of daily life and doings in town. She was the unofficial town dispatcher-- taking phone calls on town business day in and day out with unfailing patience, grace and accuracy. Working behind the scenes was Marge's chosen style—on so many occasions, she provided support for town events—baked goods for Annual Litter Pick Up or cold drinks for firefighters on duty.

In honoring Marge today, we honor all those who serve by supporting spouses, partners, parents who are active in public service. Marge's choice to serve out of the spotlight may have been an old-fashioned choice, but she and others like her are the super-glue that holds the frame and the fabric of the community together. These Wendell citizens give every day unnoticed. Their strength is in sharing what they have with others without asking or expecting recognition. Marge generously shared Ted Lewis with the town of Wendell for most of their married life, thirty years of which he served as Selectman, many of those in the demanding role of Selectboard Chair. For every meeting he attended, she kept the lamp burning waiting for his return.

Marge Lewis knew all of us better than we knew her—because she valued, above all, her privacy. But I do know that Marge loved children, and flowers, animals, and tag sales. The wild deer who were her kindred spirits, still come looking in her window to see where she has gone.

Perhaps they are asking as the Scriptures ask: "who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." Certainly we know the answer to that question: Marge Lewis was that virtuous woman and we are all the richer because she was our Wendell homegirl. Today we honor her as Wendell Citizen of the Year.

Thank you for letting me claim a few moments as a representative of the Selectboard alumni association. Early in Ann Zak's and my days on the Board, Ted brought in his trophy booklet from his bowling league and suggested we give an annual award in to a citizen in Wendell. And since the early 90s the Selectboard has chosen a Wendell Citizen of the Year to be announced at Old Home Day. In most cases we singled out people not for one particular accomplishment, but for years, a decade, or a lifetime of service to Wendell in a variety of capacities. Marian Herrick was the first to be so honored followed by Jesse Wetherby, Rosalie Rosser, Danny Baciagalupo, Everett Ricketts, Anne Diamond, Ed Chase, and Carolyn Manley. This year the Selectboard decided to honor these individuals, and future Citizens of the Year with a permanent plaque with all their names to be installed in the Town Hall.

Also this year the Board, at the suggestion of a Wendell resident, has decided to do something a bit unusual with the award and that is to give it posthumously to Marge Lewis, Ted's beloved wife, who died earlier this year. Of course, we might better have given this honor to Marge during her lifetime, but that would have made Marge (or Sal or Girlie as she was also known) acutely uncomfortable. She preferred service out of the limelight, jobs that had no title beyond good neighbor, good friend, wife and mother. She was an active member of the Golden Agers, and you will soon see two handsome granite benches installed in the southeast corner of the common presented to the Town by the Golden Agers in her memory. Marge faithfully assisted at all Town elections, and she and Ted put up and painted the flagpole in front of the Library, but most of her service to the Town was invisible. For thirty years she served as the unofficial town dispatcher—answering the phone calls on town business day and night, week in week out, with unfailing courtesy and helpfulness. She (almost always) knew where Ted was, kept him in touch with other town officials and town officials with each other, delivered endless, endless messages, even during the difficult months of her illness. She sat home during innumerable Tuesday and other evening meetings that always ran longer than expected. And during these evenings she would invariable get a call: can you find the phone number of so-and-so from the such and such agency—"it's on the refrigerator or by the phone." She always knew who so-and-so and what such and such agency was—even when the rest of us couldn't remember. In honoring Marge as Citizen of the Year, it is the Board's intention to honor all spouses, partners, and children of town officials. They also serve, who share their family members with the demands of public service.

Marge was a Powling, she grew up on West Street in the house where I now live, and died on West Street. With a lifetime in Wendell, Marge took on the job of unofficial town historian. During Ted's near thirty-year service on the Selectboard (through the good old days and the good new days), she stood by her man and by her town. They say a good man is hard to find, but I would dispute that. Ted Lewis is certainly one of the boys, but he is one of the boys who genuinely likes and respects women. For that I thank his mother, whom I unfortunately never knew, his sisters, his daughters but most of all I thank Marge Lewis. Might we have a moment of silence in memory and thanksgiving for Marge.

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Special Town Meeting Outcome

A mid-August Special Town Meeting generated a great deal of public interest. The August 7th meeting warrant was a single issue: "To see if the Town will vote to allow the placement of three additional historically appropriate lights and lampposts on the North end of the North Common, or take any action thereon."

This article was brought by citizen request because of disagreement with actions taken by the Town. At the 1998 Annual Town Meeting, voters approved by simple majority to "allow the placement of historically appropriate light and lampposts to be placed on the Town Common, both North and South Commons, to light the walkway that will be placed along Lockes Village Road as part of the Town Common Reconstruction Project." Since then,Town officials had begun to receive questions as to whether the plan explained at the 1998 Annual Meeting had included the installation of lampposts beyond the Town Offices northerly to the end of the common.

The Special Town Meeting called to clarify this issue convened promptly at 7:00PM with more than a quorum present. The crowd was so eager to begin that when the Moderator was 5 minutes late, Rosie Heidkamp was chosen to call the meeting to order. Expressions on the faces of the voters appeared set and tense. The discussion that followed would prove lively.

As the first speaker was completing his remarks, a group of about ten women who normally are scheduled to use the hall at that time entered the hall to request an immediate vote on the question. Due to the schedule conflict, they wished to vote at once. They were advised to return later, as discussion was just beginning.

Some of the townspeople present came to express dismay at finding lamps being installed past the Town Offices/Senior Center to the end of the common. There was discussion that these lights violated the vote of the 1998 Annual Meeting. The case was made that the plan approved at that time was based on the recommendations presented by the Town Common Improvement Committee. Members of this standing committee were present to explain that they had met laboriously for years to detail a plan for the common, which did not include these 3 lights. Concerns about these lights included blotting out the night sky in a residential area, and disruptive lights shining into homes. There were demands for an explanation of how these three additional lights came to be.

Selectman Ted Lewis took the hot seat and explained several times that his understanding of the Annual Meeting vote was to provide lighting from town buildings to parking areas, to be turned on only during public events. He expressed astonishment and frustration that going part way down the common with lamps was like "shingling only half the roof." His explanation included his idea of what are "common sense" and the value of "finishing a job that is started" He said, under Selectboard direction, town workers began in good faith to lay this row of historically appropriate lights along the common, illuminating the walkway to parking areas, which are beyond and across from the lights. The workers sealed off the last three lights when controversy began.

Among those present were voters who spoke passionately in favor of lighting the common to the most northerly end, stating concerns about the inadequacy of infrequent and low wattage lighting of the new pedestrian bicycle/ walkway. These speakers spoke about fears that drivers approaching in the dark need lights to indicate that they are coming to the center of our Town. They pointed out that the new sidewalk along the common is a paved undivided extension of the roadway, with only a painted line and stencils of human walking figures separating pedestrians from cars. An individual speaking for better lighting pointed out that these figures remind him of child size hit-and-run victims.

A voice vote was taken. A simple majority defeated the 3 additional lights. A hand count was not requested. The meeting was adjourned.

Kathy Becker

Campfire on the Common

What a lovely evening, Wednesday, August 18 was (the Wendell Town Common! Many townspeople, the children, and surrounding villagers enjoyed the music (Ferne Bork and Bruce Kahn. We saw a play directe by Janet Mankowsky and witnessed fire being juggled b Paul Richmond and Frank Citino! Young and old wer then delighted by roasted marshmallows around the fir Many thanks to our Wonderful Librarian, Rosie Heic kamp!

–Mez Ziemba

News Flash!!
Wendell Old Home Day 2000!
Saturday, July 29th!

Selectman Ted Lewis and Highway Superintendent Dan Bacigalupo at Wendell Old Home Day.

SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND OFFICE HOURS

Assessors
Town Office
2nd Thursday, 7:00 p.m.

Assistant To The Assessors
Town Office
Thursdays, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Building Inspector
Town Office
Wednesdays, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Conservation Commission
Town Hall
1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Council on Aging/Golden Agers
As needed

Fiancee Committee
As needed

Fire Department
Fire Station
1st & 3rd Monday, 6:30 p.m.

Board of Health
Town Hall
2nd & 4th Mondays, 7:30 p.m.

Historical Commission
As needed

Library Trustees
Library

Planning Board
Town Office
1st & 3rd Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

Police Department
Police Station
as needed

Recreation Commission
Senior Center
Thursdays, 7:00 p.m.

Road Commissioners
Town Garage
Tuesdays, 6:00 p.m.

School Committee
As needed

Selectboard
Town Office
Every other Wed , 7:00 p.m.

Town Coordinator
Town Office
Tuesdays, Thursdays, 9 am to 4 p.m.

Tax Collector
Town Office
Wed 6:30 to 8:30 pm, Tues. 9-noon
Sat 10:00 to 1:00 p.m.

Town Clerk
Wendell Depot Store
Days, 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 4 p.m.

Zoning Board of Appeals
As needed

Selectboard Minutes

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379

TOWN HALL 508 544 3395

Saturday, June 19, 1999

Present: Ted Lewis, Christine Heard, Katharine Bentley, Select Board members

1. Meeting opened at 8:10 a.m.

2. A letter to the Select Board from Attorney Stewart Eisenberg regarding a Police Department issue was read and discussed.

3. Supervision meeting with Select Board clerk, Marianne Sundell, was planned. Christine will meet with Margie McGinnis and Marianne.

4. Meeting adjourned at 9:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted: Christine Heard

June 22, 1999

Meeting convened at 7:03 p.m. Board members present were Ted Lewis, Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley. Also present were Margie McGinnis, Town Coordinator and Marianne Sundell, Selectboard Clerk.

Board reviewed and signed minutes and correspondence.

Board reviewed letter from Kevin Sullivan, Secretary of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction, concerning Route 2 and Wendell Depot Bridge. As the bridge construction will require additional funds this expenditure must be approved by the Board of Commissioners. They will be receiving this request later in the week.

Margie informed the Board that the Wendell Depot culvert project requires MassHighway approval. State officials found several places in the plans where recalculations are needed She has already requested extensions from the State due on this project.

Board reviewed a note from Senator Rosenberg and a letter from Kevin Sullivan, Secretary of the Executive Office of Transportation and Construction regarding Chapter 90 funding.

Board reviewed note from Tax Collector Penny Delorey concerning a Municipal Loan Certificate she will be sending out at the request of a resident's attorney. They asked Margie to discuss this matter with Penny.

Board received a letter from Joe Diemand informing them of his resignation from the Finance Committee. They accepted his resignation with regrets.

Board reviewed information from the Franklin Regional Council of Governments (FRCOG) regarding dog license reporting requirements and agreed that Ted would discuss this with Town Clerk Annie Hartjens.

Margie informed the Board of the results of a Y2K review of the Town's computers. Most of the computers passed the review and can be manually adjusted next year. The Treasurer's notebook computer will need to be replaced. She reported that there are concerns about the computer system at Shelburne Control.

Board reviewed letter from FRCOG concerning a challenge to the COG's award for a highway line painting bid from a company who did not get the job.

Board agreed to reappoint Joe Coll as Wendell's representative to the FRCOG, if he still wants this position.

Board reviewed letter from Franklin Technical School with information about the formation of a building committee.

News of Wendell Recreation

It was a wonderful Old Home Day 1999! August 7 was a beautiful day weather wise and despite our slow and nerve-wracked start without electricity, it went smoothly once we had juice!

A lot of Thanks are due to a lot of people and if your name is omitted—please forgive!...

A special thanks to: Chief Ed Chase, Karen Copeland, Mark Stewart, Sharon Gensler, Anne Diemand, Tricia Sylvia, Jesse Burch, Dean Bernard, Robert Heller, Ina Peebles, Janet Diani, Cassaundra Jayne, Chenoa Starkweather, Leah Kruttka ...and to all of you wonderful folks who baked for our Recreation Committee Bake Sale! And of course, to all of the musicians!

Anyway, we recently met and went over a few details we would like to share with you, the good people of Wendell.

1. First of all we have set a date for Old Home Day for next year. Mark on your calendar folks: Saturday, July 29th, 2000

2. Saturday, Oct. 9, 1999 (10:00 AM - 1:00 PM is the Wendell Fall Clean-Up and Bulb-Planting Day. Meet us at the Senior Center at 10:00 a.m. to plant bulbs and clean-up the playground, and around the center. We'll conclude in a potluck lunch at 1:00 p.m. Bring trowels, rakes, etc. Call Annie 4-6111 or Mez 4-7561 for more info.

3. If you would like to be sponsored by the Wendell Recreation committee, remember we need a written proposal with details of your event or workshop and the person responsible, as well as dates desired. We meet the 4th Thursday of the month, 7-9 p.m. at the Senior Center.

4. If anyone has any interest in being involved in a New Year's Eve event, give us a call. We're thinking about a possible Rec. Committee sponsored evening at the Town Hall, and would appreciate some feedback.

5. Swimming Lessons! We are planning on sponsoring swim lessons next year—hopefully at Lake Wyola, for the children of Wendell. We need a certified swim instructor or an individual who would commit to become certified with our sponsorship (10 months away is not premature—swim instructors can be hard to find!

6. Skating Rink! Remember our attempt to spread plastic, truck-in water and hope that it froze on the common? Well, after many requests from townsfolk, and our desire to ice-skate on a safe surface, we're at it again.

If you have any interest in helping with this project, i.e., creating an ice skating rink on 'common' land—give us a call. The season is coming!

7. Art Club! Another brainchild of the Wendell Recreation Committee, Tricia Sylvia did a fantastic job keeping the Wednesday after-school program at the Senior Center going. We need adults to keep this program going. Give a call!

8. Last but not least... On Feb. 19, 2000 Quetzal will be the feature act at the Wendell Full Moon Coffee House to benefit the Recreation Committee. Join us!

Mez Ziemba

Arsenault

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Board approved request to rent the Town Hall from Kuumba Piazza and Karen Copeland. Kuumba will hold a Yoga class on Wednedsays before Ann-Marie's dance class. On Tuesdays Karen will teach drumming and Kumba will teach dance.

Gloria Kegeles and Building Inspector Phil Delorey joined the meeting to discuss the Lake Grove expansion plans. Phil said the prior week's meeting on the this expansion was positive. Gloria encouraged more meetings of this type during the expansion process. She said that she had contacted officials in other towns where Lake Grove has campuses. The Lake Grove in Durham, Connecticut is subject to a special permit from the town. Officials there are primarilly concerned that students be screened to eliminate violent offenders and "runners". Their permit also addresses excessive traffic and impact on property values.

Margie said Lake Grove does not have a charter, which Town Counsel John Gates had requested. Phil will get copies of their other permits to Attorney Gates. Planning Board member Marianne Sundell said she reviewed the situation with FRCOG Planning Director Peggy Sloan. The Planning Board is developing a site plan review process and want to know how current bylaws and other planning tools applied to this kind of development. Peggy spoke to Don Schmidt of the Department of Housing and Community Development who is an expert of zoning case law. He said that if Lake Grove is deemed to be exclusively a school the Town may require a site plan and regulate issues such as traffic flow, but they could not require Lake Grove to undergo a site plan review process which required a special permit.

Phil said Lake Grove has not submitted a request for a building permit. He feels one person, the Building Inspector, should act as liaison between the Town and the Lake Grove School. He has been reviewing related case law and believes recent rulings indicate that Lake Grove is exempt from special permitting. However, he still intends to seek Attorney Gates opinion.

Phil said last week's meeting was legal as it was not a special permitting process. He intends to review the process in light of Attorney Gates' opinion and noted Planning Board's concerns that the meeting had not been announced to the public in the same manner as a special permit. He will write a letter to Attorney Gates clarifying some issues and will meet with him and Margie next week. Ted will also attend. Attorney Gates requested this meeting to clarify the issues.

Katharine reminded the Board of her request to reschedule Selectboard meetings to a different night after Town meeting, and a discussion of options followed.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marianne Sundell
Selectboard Clerk

Saturday, June 26, 1999

Present: Ted Lewis, Christine Heard, Katharine Bentley, Select Board members; Ed Chase, Chief of Police

1. Meeting opened at June 26, 1999 at 8:10 a.m.

2. Select Board members discussed recent incidents with Ed Chase. A meeting with the newest officers, Chris Maselli and Charlie Ricco, was tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, June 29, 1999 at 6:00 p.m.

3. 1999-2000 appointments were signed.

4. A special hearing for a permit for Eddie Diemand to remove dirt from his property was scheduled for July 20, 1999.

5. Meeting recessed at 9:45 a.m. and will be reconvened on Tuesday, July 29, 1999 at 6:00 p.m.

Police Log

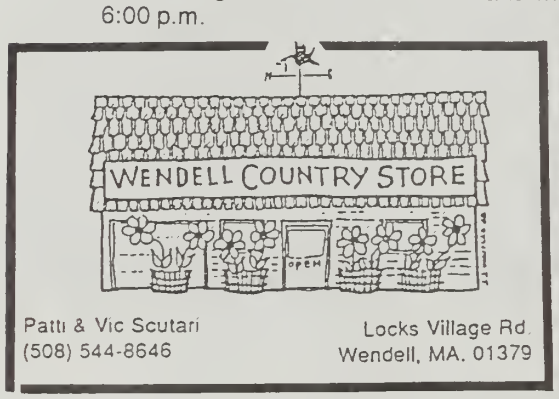
06-23-99 Missing person. Wendell Depot Rd.
Stolen truck tool box.
06-24-99 Officer wanted. Wendell Depot Rd.
07-04-99 Noise complaint on West Rd.
07-05-99 Complaint re: Fiske Pond.
One car accident. Locke Hill Rd.
07-07-99 Suspicious person on Wendell Depot Rd.
07-08-99 BMX bicycle found in area around Fiske Pond.
07-11-99 Noise complaint. Locke Hill Rd.
07-13-99 Noise complaint. Locke's Village Rd.
07-14-99 Animal complaint. Locke's Village Rd.
Noise complaint. Locke's Village Rd.
911 misdial. Mormon Hollow Rd.
Noise complaint. Locke's Village Rd.
07-17-99 Noise complaint. West Rd.
Noise complaint. Fiske Pond.
07-19-99 Disturbance on Mountain Laurel Rd.
07-21-99 Disabled MV Farley Rd.
Requesting Officer at Pine Brook Campground.
07-24-99 Vandalism on Lockes Village Rd.
Noise complaint at Fiske Pond.
08-03-99 House check. Morse Rd.
08-05-99 One car accident. Montague Rd.
08-06-99 MV accident on Wickett Pond Rd.
08-10-99 Noise complaint. Lockes Village Rd.
08-11-99 Officer wanted. Farley Rd.
08-24-99 Protective custody. Lockes Village Rd.
08-26-99 Officer wanted. Farley Rd.
08-26-99 Check welfare. Fiske Pond.
Suspicious person. Stone Rd.
08-28-99 Noise complaint. Lockes Village Rd.
One car accident. Lock Hill Rd.
False alarm. Wendell Country Store.
08-30-99 False alarm. Wendell Country Store.
Tree down. Wendell Depot Rd.
08-31-99 Domestic. Wickett Pond Rd.
09-03-99 False alarm. Wendell Country Store.

These are the calls that were received by Shelburne Control. Officers may receive calls at home that may not be registered here.

Officer A. Diemand

Fire Log

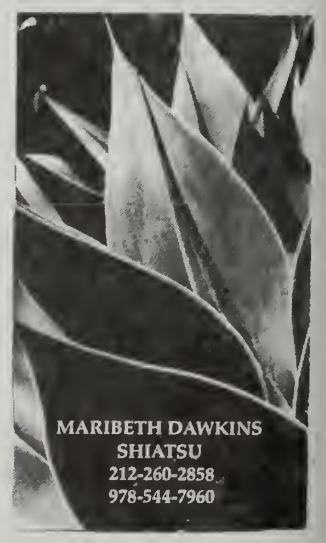
#25	5\17\99	Overhaul	John Quist Rd.
#26	5\31\99	Med-Call	70 Lockes Village Rd.
		Above Sent In	
#27	6\3\99	Med-Call	256 Lockes Village Rd.
#28	6\7\99	Med-Call	153 Montague Rd.
#29	6\19\99	Med-Vehicle-Acc.	West Rd.
#30	6\29\99	Power Line Fire	West Rd.
#31	7\2\99	Med-Call	Lake grove School
#32	7\6\99	Fire Call	256 Lockes Village Rd.
#33	7\11\99	Med Call	Wendell State Forest
#34	7\27\99	Brush fire	Fiske Pond
#35	8\7\99	Vehicle Fire	Wendell Depot Rd.
#36	8\9\99	Brush Fire	166 West Rd.
#37	8\14\99	Med - Call	5 Davis Rd.
#38	6\27\99	Mutual Aid Call	Shutesbury
#39	9\8\99	Public Service	97 Wendell Depot Rd.
#40	9\9\99	Public Service	97 Wendell Depot Rd.
#41	9\17\99	Emerg. Cellar Pump	Lake Grove School
#42	9\17\99	Emerg. Cellar Pump	410 Farley Rd.
#43	9\17\99	Emerg. Cellar Pump	109 Montague Rd.



Nini & Maribeth are available to give four-handed shiatsu sessions.

Nini Melvin has created a technique, "PRESENTOUCH", which blends movement, meditation, and touch, based on the ancient wisdom of the five elements. She conducts workshops, and trains practitioners and teachers in the U.S. & Europe.

Maribeth Dawkins will travel to your home so you can fully embody your healing treatment without having to commute.



TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 01379

Tuesday, June 29, 1999

Present: Ted Lewis, Christine Heard, Select Board members; Chris Maselli and Charlie Ricco, Police Officers; Dan Keller and Lee Trousdale, Finance Committee members.

1. Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, June 29, 1999 at 6:00 p.m.

2. The Board met first with Charlie Ricco to discuss his first year on the Wendell Police. Charlie felt good about his first year and is willing to continue on the force. He talked about the training from mediation services as being very helpful.

3. The Board next met with Chris Maselli to discuss his first year on the Wendell Police. Chris also felt good about his first year, despite some difficult incidents. He is learning a lot from the training Wendell police officers are currently receiving from mediation services as well as other trainings he has attended in the past year. He is eager to continue on the force and wants to continue to learn through experience and by taking further trainings.

4. The Board met with the Finance Committee. Ted expressed concern that the Town Clerk, Annie Hartjens, received no raise this year. Lee explained that she did not request one. Ted said that unless we continue to give raises to important positions, like Town Clerk, salaries will be out of line. Two questions were raised: What fees are kept by the Town Clerk? Does the Tax Collector keep the demand fees that are paid?

July 6, 1999

Those present were Selectboard Members Ted Lewis, Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley and Town Coordinator Marjorie McGinnis

The Selectboard met at 7:02 p.m.

Board signed the warrant and reviewed minutes from the previous meeting.

Board signed two appointments.

Christine reported on the Money Management Team meeting held earlier that evening to the other Board members. The Team voted unanimously not to pursue amnesty in any form for past due taxes.

Board met with Anne Marie Meltzer regarding Town Hall use for an event sponsored by the Community Council and for her dance classes.

Board met with Nina Keller, Hazardous Waste Coordinator, and Nancy Reibschlaeger of the Concerned Citizens Group regarding DB Landfill. Nina requested the Board to support the BOH in closing the landfill. Nancy feels that the expired BOH permit is the most direct enforcement method. Board agreed to meet with DEP to address new questions and explore the options.

Board met with Atty. Frank McDonald, Patrick Pacheco, Bill Lafley, Kim Noyes and Tax Collector Penny Delorey to review an outstanding tax situation. Atty. McDonald explained that the land, currently owned by Pacheco, was previously owned by Lafley and Noyes. No Municipal Lien Certificate was issued at the time of sale and current one shows outstanding taxes. Lafley and Noyes brought proof of payment for much of the outstanding taxes, showing their record as consistent taxpayers. The Board explained that, despite their good record of payment, the Town is governed by State laws regarding taxes and cannot alter the Town enforcement of them. Penny will contact the town's auditor to see if any other options exist and McDonald will contact DOR for the same purpose.

Board met with Rosie Heidkamp and Bob Shulman, representatives from the Town Common Advisory Committee. Also present were Mason Phelps, Lisa Hoag, Ken Holmberg, Danny Bacigalupo and Shirley White. The Committee requested the Board stop the placement of additional lights on the North Common until a town meeting can be held. A history of lights on the Common was given and the feelings of Advisory Board members, who supported the first eight lights at the 1998 Annual Town Meeting, and did not feel that these three lights were included in that vote, were discussed. Board agreed to wait for a town meeting vote, but planned to schedule a meeting in August to allow for the lights to be included in the Town Common grant, if approved.

Board met with Gloria Kegeles and Nancy Reibschlaeger regarding DB Landfill. Gloria would like to organize the previously discussed meeting with DEP and contact Margie with the date and time. Nancy also mentioned that the Town has not received multiple items promised during the March meeting with DB owners. Margie will send a letter re-requesting these items.

Board met with Danny Bacigalupo to review a letter received from Donald Richardson regarding the extension of the walkway down Wendell Depot Road. Mr. Richardson requests that a strip of grass be left between the road and the walkway to prevent cars from utilizing the walkway as part of the road. Danny explained that the highway department has been addressing drainage problems as they have created the walkway along the North Common. Board agreed to hold a public hearing with the Highway Department and Road Commissioners prior to the continuation of the walkway past the Common. Margie will send a letter to Mr. Richardson.

Taxpayers' Option to Pay Tax Before Paying Interest and Charges

Summary: The Supreme Judicial Court has recently ruled that a taxpayer making a partial payment of a single year's income tax liability that includes interest and penalties as well as the tax may direct the Commissioner of Revenue to apply the part payment entirely to the underlying tax, rather than to the accrued interest and penalties. Because both the statutory basis and the Commissioner's rationale for applying partial payments to interest and penalties first are similar to those relied upon by municipal collectors to justify their similar practice in allocating local tax payments, the court's ruling affect municipalities as well as the commonwealth.

Guidelines:

Municipal collectors should follow the rule established by the *Molesworth* case in applying partial payments to local property tax, excise and user fee liabilities.

1. If a taxpayer's payment gives no indication what obligation he intends to pay, the collector is free to apply it to any outstanding liability of the person making the payment. The payment may be applied first to any accrued interest and charges. The collector should ordinarily apply such a payment to the oldest outstanding liabilities. Administrative considerations may make it preferable to apply a payment to more recent liabilities if those liabilities can be extinguished by the payment.

2. If a payment by check is received with a notation that it is to be applied to "property taxes" and the amount of the check does not correspond to any particular outstanding tax liability, the collector may apply the payment to any fiscal year's outstanding real or personal property tax liabilities of the person making the payment, and may apply the payment first to interest and charges.

3. If a person directs that a payment should be applied to a specified underlying tax or user fee, rather than to interest and charges that have been added to the tax or fee, the collector must apply the payment to the principal amount of the obligation first. For example, if a collector receives a check with a memorandum that says "1990 real estate taxes", in an amount that corresponds exactly to the balance of the tax due, that payment must be applied to the tax rather than to any interest and charges.

Even where the amount of the check does not make it clear that the payment is to be applied to the tax rather than to interest and charges, the person making the payment may require such an allocation by including instructions such as "Payment to be applied to tax first then to interest and charges", or something equally explicit.

4. If payment on an overdue bill is accompanied by an express direction to apply it to the underlying tax or user fee, the collector should seek to collect the outstanding balance of that account as promptly as possible, in order to minimize the period during which the municipality is not earning any interest on its delinquent accounts receivable. If the unpaid balance is on a real estate tax bill, the collector should take the property into tax title without delay. If it is an unpaid motor vehicle excise or personal property tax bill, the collector should either institute legal action to recover the remaining balance or turn over the account to a deputy collector or collection agency with instructions to give that account priority. The right to direct the application of a payment exists only with respect to voluntary payments. For example, if the collector uses the set-off provision of G.L. Ch.60 sect. 93 and has the treasurer credit the money due to a delinquent tax or obligation of the delinquent, the money should be credited first to the outstanding interest and charges.

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 013

Board reviewed letter received from Gloria Kegeles regarding the presence of the Police Department at State Forest events. Board asked Margie to inform Gloria that the State Forest requests local police presence during their events.

Board reviewed packets received from Atty. Pill and letters of communication between participants received regarding the West Street ZBA issue and agreed to forward all information received to the ZBA.

Board met with Rick Asmann of the Planning Board who requested an All Board meeting. Board agreed and Margie will organize one.

Board reviewed issue mentioned by Marianne Sundell regarding police enforcement of parking policies. Christine will ask Police Chief more information.

Board reviewed the response received from Senator Rosenberg regarding construction reform proposal.

Board reviewed catalog and agreed on plaques to be purchased for the Citizen of the Year and the Oldest Citizen Cane.

Board agreed to ask Nancy Reibschlaeger if she wanted to be appointed to the FRCOG Economic Development Committee.

Board further discussed the option of moving to Wednesday nights. Neither the Tax Collector or Building Inspector feel it would interfere with their operations. Board agreed to start meeting on Wednesdays as of September 15th. Margie will publicize.

Margie asked the Board if they have memory of whether a policy has been adopted by the Town regarding employee health insurance and percentages paid by the Town and by the employee. Ted remembers the issue being addressed in either a Selectboard meeting or a town meeting.

Christine informed the other Board members that Union 28 has a new superintendent, David Crisafulli.

Katharine informed the other Board members that she has received a packet of information regarding cemeteries from Marianne Sundell and they will tour the cemetery.

Board was informed that the following items have been received by the office:

New Salem/Wendell School Committee minutes and agenda

FCSWMD minutes and agenda

Right of Way notification from Western Mass Electric

Recessed at 9:36 p.m. until July 17th at 12:30 p.m.

July 20, 1999

In attendance were Selectboard Members Ted Lewis, Christine Heard and Katharine Bentley, and Town Coordinator Marjorie McGinnis.

Meeting convened at 6:18 p.m.

Board signed the Special Town Meeting Warrant for the additional three lights on the Common.

Board reviewed letter received from Bob Ellis concerning a Senate bill for a single-payer health care system and signed letter to Senator Rosenberg asking him to support the bill. Agreed to have copy sent to Bob Ellis.

Board signed Chapter 90 paperwork for FY 2000.

Board reviewed letter received from the Executive Office of Administration and Finance regarding FY 2000 Chapter 90 funds.

Mormon Hollow Auto LTD.
JOSEPH DIEMAND
JANE MARSHALL
NAT'L. 1-800-DIE-MAND
LOCAL 508-544-7206
MORMON HOLLOW ROAD • WENDELL, MA 01379

Board discussed the Wendell Depot Bridge situation and requested Margie to call John Hoey, District II Mass Highway Director, to get an update.

Board received Roger Choinere's resignation from the Community Policing Committee with regrets.

Board discussed the timing for the Citizen of the Year presentation at Old Home Day. Margie will call Margo Culley and Anne Diemand.

Board review Lake Grove letter received concerning speed zones in the areas by the school. Margie will pursue.

Board received an update on the Paul Rich license situation. Margie has forwarded our records to Atty. Gates, who has until August 24, 1999 to file an Administrative Review.

Board discussed the work that needs to be completed on the Town Office Building. Margie will look for price quotes received a few years ago.
Board approved Margie's vacation request for August 23 – 27th.

Board was informed that the following items have been received by the office:

Minutes to meeting in Springfield with DEP regarding DB Landfill and
copies of testing completed at DB.

Invitation to Randall Pond Industrial Park groundbreaking ceremony

Dept. of Education letter regarding school building assistance program

Mass Municipal Legislative Action

FRCOG health program end of year report

FCSWMD minutes and agenda

Board scheduled an all board meeting Wednesday September 22nd. Participants will be invited to join in a 6 p.m. potluck before the 7:00 p.m. meeting.

Board discussed coordinating the state Ethics Commission presentation for town officials with New Salem and holding this meeting in October.

Selectboard Clerk Marianne Sundell informed the Board that most appointed officials planned to continue in their positions, but Elizabeth Scully will be resigning from the Council on Aging as she is moving to Athol.

Board discussed compiling and indexing policies that have been adopted at Town Meetings and by the Selectboard and other boards. The Town Clerk, Town Coordinator and Selectboard Clerk will work together on this project.

7:30 p.m. Special Permit Hearing for removal of fill at Eddie Diemand's property on Old Farley Road. Abutter Linda Pirog and Jim Delaronde, who plans to purchase adjoining property from Judy Pratt, attended. Eddie Diemand informed the Board of his intention to withdraw his application as a result of abutters' concerns of potential damage to their wells. Board discussed controlling erosion resulting from prior excavation at the site.

Mason Phelps, Charles Smith, Cheryl Richardson, Gloria Kegeles and Fran & Laura Doughty joined the meeting. Mason and Linda Pirog presented the Board with a model bylaw designed to protect wells from excavation. Board suggested they submit this proposal to the Planning Board.

Board discussed ownership of the Meetinghouse with Charles Smith and the need for repairs to the building. It was noted that members of the Historical Commission and other Wendell residents have expressed interest in restoration of the building.

Cheryl Richardson addressed the Board concerning communications she has had with the auditor and tax collector and repeated requests for proof of payment she and her family have received. She reported that this has caused hardship for her family and urged a rapid resolution to this situation. Board members said the Tax Collector's office has been working very hard to try and resolve the problems.

Town Common Advisory Committee members Anne Zak, Jonathon von Ranson, Rosie Heidkamp, and Bob Schulman joined the meeting with Paul Richmond . Concerns were again raised about the lights on the North Common. Also addressed were the appearance of a wider road surface created by the new walkway and the pavement curbing. Board announced their decisions from their last meeting to have a Special Town Meeting to address the lights and hold a hearing with the Road Commissioners prior to completing any additional work on the walkway.

Board of Health members Morgan Mead and Gloria Kegeles, Dog Officer Maggie Houghton, Police Officer Chris Maselli and neighbors Anne Zak and Maggie Paddock met with the Board to discuss health issues and dog problems at Jack Shea's trailer on Locks Village Road. A Dog hearing was scheduled for Saturday July 31st to address concerns about barking.

Meeting adjourned at 10:25 p.m.

PRESS Wendell Post Reporter

TOWN OF WENDELL MASSACHUSETTS 013

this expense and current formula of 50% equivalent to the indemnity plan will use $13,000. Board agreed to propose the Town's paying 70% for FY 2000 to the Finance Committee. If agreed by Fin Com, employees need to understand that this percentage may reduce in future years.

Board met with Maggie Houghton to discuss the status of Jack Shea's dogs. He still has the dogs, and she is still receiving complaints of their barking. Margie will call Atty. Gates to decide next action.

Board reviewed packet received by Phil Delorey from Paul Rich concerning the Tax Collector and the Selectboard. Margie and Ted will contact the Police Chief to express the Board's concern.

Board was informed that Phil Delorey, Building Inspector, requested and was given permission to contact Atty. Gates to ask questions concerning the Town's obligation to Lake Grove in their current building project.

Board was informed by Penny Delorey, Tax Collector, that Tom Scanlon, Auditor, is taking her books from 1989 to present to his office for a week, so she will be without them.

Board reviewed letters from Rep. Kulik and Action Alert regarding Chapter 90 funding.

Board was informed that the 1997 Kathy Becker lawsuit against the Town has been settled

Board reviewed letter from Janice Eno regarding her building located next to Meetinghouse. She gave permission to have an appraisal completed for a library site. Board crossed out the wording concerning the library and will send it back to her to see if she'll agree to a general appraisal. Board also agreed to have a meeting concerning the Meetinghouse during their September 29th meeting.

Board discussed Library event with Oliver Wendell's (Town's Founder) great granddaughter. Ted and Katharine will try to attend.

Board reviewed letter received from Sandra Fournier of Orange regarding the Athol Hospital and agreed to send a support letter to the hospital's administration thanking them for their work and stressing the importance of the hospital's presence in the area.

Board reviewed letter from Dept. of Revenue informing Assessors that their reevaluation program has received preliminary approval.

Board agreed to reappoint Nancy Reibschlaeger to the Regional Economic Committee.

Board reviewed traffic counts received from the FRCOG for Farley Road, New Salem Road and Wendell Depot Road.

Selectboard and Finance Committee Meeting

Meeting Minutes

Meeting took place on September 8, 1999 at 7:30 p.m. in the Selectboard Office

In attendance: Ted Lewis, Christine Heard, Selectboard Members, Lee Trousdale, Dan Keller, Finance Committee Members, and Marjorie McGinnis, Town Coordinator,

The group met with Carolyn Manley, Town Treasurer and Daniel Bacigalupo, Highway Superintendent and discussed the current situation regarding health insurance. Kaiser's premiums for FY 2000 have increased approximately 15%, while the indemnity plan did not increase. Multiple avenues were explored and the group agreed to change the current formula of paying 50% equivalent of indemnity plan to paying 70% of the health insurance premium regardless of type of plan. Also agreed to add this to the Personnel Policy. Selectboard will vote officially at their next meeting.

Reviewed warrant for upcoming Special Town Meeting.

Phil Delorey, Building Inspector, joined the group and discussed upcoming All-Board meeting. Phil requested that Town Counsel be present at the meeting to present several topics. Selectboard responded that Town Counsel's presence would be too expensive, but that if topics are generated at the meeting that require legal feedback, a list can be made and answers sought after the meeting.

Phil also requested that the Selectboard make a public statement regarding the tax collection situation and Christine Heard agreed to write an article for the Wendell Post.

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Board met with Anne Zak, who discussed the need for Mahar's addition in the next few years.

Board Was Informed The Following Items Have Been Received In The Office:

- FCSWMD minutes and agenda
- New Salem/Wendell School Committee minutes and agenda
- Recycling Box Newsletter

Recessed at 9:12 p.m. until 7:30 a.m. on August 18th at Diemand Special Permit Site.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marjorie McGinnis, Town Coordinator

Beginning September 15, 1999, the Selectboard will be meeting on **Wednesdays** at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectboard Office.

Wendell Planning Board

The Wendell Planning Board needs a new member. Anyone who is interested should call Rick Asmann, Planning Board Chair, at 544-8519 to discuss. Thanks.

Margie McGinnis

Clerk Sought

The Selectboard is looking for a new Clerk
Includes attendence at meetings every other Wednesday night, recording of minutes and sporadic clerical work.
Interested, Please call Margie in the Selectboard Office at 544-3395.

New Elder Youth

Community Service Program

The Community Policing Program is organizing an Elder/Youth Community Service Program. The purpose of the program is to connect Wendell teens who are willing to complete small home repair and maintenance projects with Wendell elders who need such projects to be completed. Projects can include most all odd jobs, such as raking leaves or painting fences. The teens involved will be paid for the time that they are working. A paid supervisor also will be present during work to help direct the teens and communicate with the elders.

Participants for the program are needed, including teens, elders and supervisors. If you are interested or know of someone who could benefit from the program, please call Ed Chase, Police Chief, at 544-3554 or Margie McGinnis, Town Coordinator, at 544-3395.

9/17/99 Farley Road below Bear Mountain

"It was the first time I ever saw Wendell Depot Brook right up over the road 6-8 inches. The culverts were open, but the brook was right over the road, there was no place for the water to go. There was two feet of water over the bridge in the Depot. Jim Paddock and I got a little scared. We said, hey, let's get out of here. It was just bubbling up and running over the road."

"The amount of water going across the roads...well, there was a foot even on flat land. I took pictures, documented everything."

"Jennison Road ..., we built to a 100 year flood plan. The water went right up over the road there, 2 feet of water. That was (because of) another series of beaver ponds."

"We worked all day on Thursday from 6 a.m. till 4 p.m., then at 7 p.m. we got a call, trees down. We just kept right on working, and then started repairing Friday at 6 a.m. People brought us pie, coffee, doughnuts. We had Farley Road open at noon on Saturday. Oh, we had our skeptics about Farley Road, about us being able to open so quick."

Remarkably, the Road Crew had much of Wendell open for travel by Friday afternoon, with quick help from L&F Construction Company and a gravel company which made rapid deliveries on a moment's notice.

The repairs will continue. "Kempfield is the last road. Then we are going to pave the ditches. We will start paving (the road patches) in mid October."

Danny Bacigalupo asked that this report "not make too much" of the work the Highway crew did during and after the storm.

The Selectboard, who have nothing but the highest commendations for the Highway Dept. crew's storm response, ask that townspeople give a little call of thanks when we think of it.

Kathy Becker

Tropical Storm Floyd Taxes Town

Damage to Wendell Roads caused by the recent storm is estimated at $250,000 to $300,000, a highwater mark well over our whole year's anticipated highway budget of $223,980. Selectman Ted Lewis has been quoted expressing wonderment about how all this expense will be paid for. The Town has applied for disaster funds, but even though the cost appears overwhelming for such a small town to bear, it may not be a large enough amount of money to qualify for federal and state disaster funds. State Senator Stanley Rosenberg has advised that Wendell and the other North Quabbin towns hit hard by the storm document the damage and add the repair figures together. Our Representative, Steve Kulik, has promised to work hard to get reimbursement to the towns he represents. Meanwhile the Highway Dept. continues making repairs and returning the highways to a safe condition. Danny Bacigalupo, Highway Boss, has pictures and is keeping records.

The Selectboard commended the performance of the Wendell Highway Department for a "superior job dor-" in responding to the storm.

Kathy Becker

9/17/99 Detail of Farley Road below Bear Mountain

9/17/99 Farley Road below Stone Road

9/17/99 Locksvillage Road bridge at Plain Road

9/17/99 Depot Hill washout

New Salem
Est. 1996
GENERAL STORE
Full Package Store
Grocery
Lottery
Home Brewing Supplies
410 Daniel Shays Hwy.
New Salem, MA 01355
Tel 978. 544-8177
Rick & Lori Oliver
Owners

II Bidú Sayão

Almost a Personal Remembrance
(Opera Princess—Part II)

In 1990 I lived on the Windigo property in Windsor in Berkshire County. Windigo had been a youth summer camp started in the 1930's by Smith College alumnae. It ran successfully for many years into the late 1950's when it closed its doors, thereafter purchased by the Commonwealth and added to the adjoining Windsor State Forest. Buildings and grounds were intact—the main house livable and quiet. There I first heard Bidú Sayão over the radio. I did not know her name then. I didn't know what she was singing. Her voice was clear and captivating. I remembered it.

This spring, in March, I heard it again. That faithful little memory chip was activated and came racing forward. Bidú had just died in Lincolnville, Maine. Priscilla Druker of WFCR was broadcasting thirty minutes of selections from two compact discs held in the library at WFCR. I was so surprised by that beautiful voice once again.

At the end of the broadcast I called the station. Ms. Druker answered and spelled out the name for me complete "with accent mark over the u and squiggle over the second a." I guess Priscilla was pleased at the call. She talked on for twenty minutes about Bidú; a sketch of her life, her recordings, twenty years as soprano with the Metropolitan Opera, her death just the previous day at age 96 in Maine. Ms. Druker rang off saying she had "to do production." I thanked her. Curiosity. Something stirring inside...

In four days I cleaned the Volvo, changed the oil, repressured the tires, secured two days of vacation time, packed full the overnighter and headed "down east."

Lincolnville lies between Camden and Belfast on Penobscot Bay. Arriving late on Thursday, I took a room at the Snow Hill Lodge—"the view with a motel." Coming up Route 1 out of Camden, I passed by a red and white picket fence with a small sign reading "CASA BIDÚ." It was dusk. Further, on the driveway another sign read "no trespass." I continued on, but I was elated to have found the place.

The next day, Friday, I played the curious tourist, visiting local haunts. Lincolnville has a small beach. I went to the Town Offices. I visited the local newspaper in Camden, the Camden Herald, where I learned of Hazel Eaton, an area realtor who had been personal assistant to Bidú. I learned of the caretaker, Jeff Smith and also of Lynne Lofman of Rockland, who had been Bidú's closest care-giver for nearly five years. A few phone calls yielded little save for Ms. Lofman who was reluctant to talk over the phone, but agreed to meet with me next day for a short lunch.

The next morning had the appropriate light fog coming in off the bay, but outside the lodge I could see the Isleboro State Ferry doing its slow reach between that island and Lincolnville Beach—out in one hour and back in the next hour.

As no phone calls were returning, I began to doubt my quest here—an interest in Opera, a quickened interest in this intriguing player, still perhaps gave me no particular rights of enquiry now after her death.

The heart is your center
of action and intuition.
Follow your heart.

Preparing to leave, I thought of the local phone book again and looked for "Sayão." There it was ! I dialed the listed number and surprisingly got an answer. It was Jeff Smith, the caretaker. He had been quoted in the Boston Globe saying Miss Sayão spent much time tending to her flowers outside her home on the rocky coast. Jeff was leaving, but would stay a bit longer.

Within moments and with rush of excitement, I drove down a long paved driveway, trees on both sides, to arrive at the modest house where Bidú Sayão had lived these many years—a light blue ranch with shingled sides and shingled cottage roof—a good dwelling for the seacoast. There were the well kept grounds with flower beds and large lawn area stretching down to the rocks and salt water. Jeff greeted me and we walked around outside, identifying trees, seeing the dormant flower beds, the pretty and unhurried view of the water and outlying islands. There was some remaining snow in shady corners and where it had been piled up by plow. Bidú's spirit was there in the porch setting—a small name sign, bird houses, lobster buoys, and other flotsam. Things were clean. It was quiet.

Jeff explained how his present instructions were to continue what he had been doing, though he admitted he would no longer get the occasional call from Bidú to help secure windows for storm or to help her in simply getting around outside or inside. Every Saturday he would pick up two copies of the Camden Herald—one for himself and one for Bidú—a small errand which he was proud to do. "But, I'll just be getting one from now on" he said.

Jeff seemed to be still learning his role, but he knew that part of that role was in remembrance. As we stood by the porch he said, "you know, Hal, I'm not up much on opera and sometimes I feel funny because I'm from a much younger generation here, but Bidú was nice to me. And I loved her."

I had taken a few photos—one of Jeff at the porch entrance. The last was of the driveway leading back out to coastal Route 1. There Jeff and I said goodbye. He drove north. I drove south.

In Rockland I met Lynne Lofman. Lynne is another native Mainer. In 1996 she went with Bidú to Rio de Janeiro for the annual Carnival which in Brazil's largest city is a grand scale event. Beija Flor, Brazil's largest samba school, had itself erected nine floats and assembled hundreds of dancers, all in colorful feathered costumes, many featuring photos of Bidú incorporated into the elaborate headresses. Bidú, in costume herself and flanked by helpers, rode high in the largest float.

Lynne was happy that I had seen the house. Then came a surprise. She had brought to our meeting some photos taken just last year at Casa on occasion of a visit from a friend at the Metropolitan Opera. Lynne had helped Bidú in all ways, but was painstaking in doing Bidú's hair once again in the classic chignon style preferred by the opera princess all her life! I commented on her eyes. Lynne said "yes, beautiful, but they could sure flash when she was mad over something. And she could get mad!"

Lynne gave me the photos as a present and I treasure them. At age 95, age has taken a person's youthful sharp features. But beauty remains. An inner radiance shines through. It can be just as strong. Here then was Bidú Sayão, still the petite beauty with dark eyes, still a generous smile and dimples. In a blue cotton robe and trying not to show the walker at her side, she poses for the pictures which Lynne takes...

I express deep gratitude to Lynne and Jeff, these gracious Maine natives, for helping to make my short visit memorable and for lifting me out of doubt.

I made my way along old Route 1, through Wiscasset, Bath and Brunswick out to the interstate and down to Route 202. I put into the dashboard player one CD which includes complete "La Damoiselle elne" with other selected arias and songs. Route 202 carried me through New Hampshire and back down into Massachusetts. Fin.

–Hal Stowell

For those wishing to hear Bidú, there are two easily available CD's newly re-mastered under Sony Masterworks. For the Record in Amherst will order if they don't have in stock. There are others, including the complete "La Boheme" with Richard Tucker (EMI). They can, I believe, also be ordered.

Anyone possessing an old LP of Bidú (Columbia and maybe Decca) well, you have a treasure. I have a portable player. 544–7747. We'll compare notes. Thank you. –Hal Stowell

Wendell's Own Soprano

Laura Doughty presents Solo Recital

Mezzo-soprano, Laura Doughty, will present a voice recital on Saturday, October 30, 1999, at 7:00 pm in Warwick Town Hall. Joining her will be another Wendell resident, violist Catherine Bowers, and David Bilodeau playing trumpet. (Pianist to be announced.) Laura will sings songs of Purcell, Holst, Faure, and Brahms.

All are invited to attend. There will be no admission charge, but donations will be gratefully accepted. There will be a short reception following the program. Please come!

For more information, please call Laura at 544-5450.

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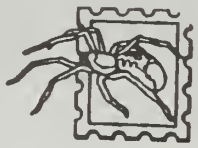
PRESS
Wendell Post Reporter

Postmaster of the Year

WENDELL POSTMASTER HAILED BY FELLOW POSTMASTERS

Wendell's Postmaster, Charles O'Dowd, has been named Massachusetts' "Postmaster of the Year". Based upon Charlie's many accomplishments, community service, and heroism in saving two families from a major fire in Hatfield, Charlie has been nominated for "National Postmaster of the Year".

Grateful for this honor, Charlie said, " Public Service may not be his whole life. It's what makes his life whole."



Kids in Wendell "Go Buggy" Over Stamp Collecting

Children and adults alike are discovering stamp collecting at the Wendell Post Office with the issuance of new commemorative stamps "crawling" with lifelike depictions of insects and spiders

"The Insects and Spiders stamps are an excellent example of how stamp collecting helps to spark the imagination, and can lead to a lifelong educational experience," said Postmaster, Charlie O'Dowd.

"The Postal Service values its role as a community leader, and we believe that this commemorative stamp program gives us an opportunity to connect with our customers in a very personal and entertaining way," said O'Dowd.

More than 3 million school children are expected to participate in National Stamp Collecting Month this year, making the 19th anniversary of this event the largest ever.

The local celebration in Wendell was highlighted with a special ceremonial presentation at the Swift River Elementary School, a special commemorative stamp cancellation, exhibits, and the showing of "A Bug's Life" in the Wendell Post Office lobby.

"Come, take a moment to discover the wonderful world of stamp collecting. It's an educational way to learn about the historic people, places, and events printed on U.S. Postage each year."

Wendell's Own Millenuim Celebration

New Years Eve 2000

Happy to stay at home to celebrate the Millenium? Want to do a community celebration? Who better to be with than friends & neighbors for this auspicious occurence in the Roman Calendar.

The Town Hall is available, and reserved, for a fun community event. Lots of ideas for celebrating together are floating about. So far, suggestions include; a fancy pot luck supper, a costume ball (come as your fantasy of the future), town bands playing dance music, a talent show, with luminarias and a bonfire on the Common.

Karen and Michael Idoine have suggested building several bonfires at Swallow Rise on Depot Road where people can gather throughout the night in warmth, and watch the earth turn under a starry sky.

Those of us who are thinking about this would like to know what our community wants. Come contribute ideas, creativity, and coordination to this grass roots Millenium Celebration. We want the planning to include Wendell Teens.

A brainstorming and planning meeting will be held at the Wendell Free Library, Sunday, October 3rd, at 7pm.

Karen Idione & Rosie Heidkamp

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT THE LIBRARY

The Wendell Free Library is looking for people to volunteer at the circulation desk. Responsibilities include checking in and out Library materials, some shelving and, of course greeting your friends and neighbors. There will always be a Library staff person on duty to handle Reference questions.

If you can make a commitment for two hours a week and for three months, stop by the Library or call 544-3559. All training provided .

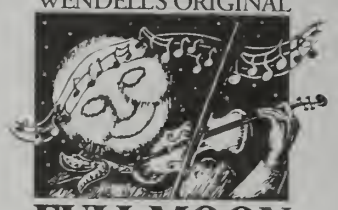
Flu Shots

Flu shots will be given at the Senior Center on Wednesday, October 6 from 10 to 11 a.m., this is the same time as the monthly blood pressure and foot screenings. The flu shots are sponsored by the Wendell Board of Health.

Community Pot Luck

The FIRST SUNDAY POT LUCK SUPPER will be held at the Senior Center on Oct. 3rd from 4 to 6 p.m. All are welcome. This event is sponsored by the Council on Aging.

WENDELL'S ORIGINAL



FULLMOON COFFEEHOUSE

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Oct 23rd	Annie Wenz with Special Guest, Norman Blaine
Nov 20th	FRFF '99 Showcase Internationally renown Matt Heimevitz with an opening act by the amazing Gardener Symphonettao Lucious Lite Classical
Dec 11th	STASH OANCE DANCE DANCE Rich Raucous Rock Come dance the winter Blues away Pathfinder Learning Center
Jan 22th	Fran Doughty and Judith Ann Marie Two of our local Favorites and a rare appearance at that !!!! Wendell Free Library
Feb 19th	Hot Dance Night Stay Tuned Wendell Fire Association
March 18h	Showcase Night Some of the best New Acts in the Valley Friends Of Wendell
April 15th	The Return of ANATOLIA Haunting and beautiful Middle Eastern Music Americana in Blues, Folk, Country and Rock n' roll Wendell Recreation Committee
May 13th	TBD Comedy Night !!
June 10th	Special Surprise Guest !!! Wendell Town Hall

Open Mike at 7:30
Dessert-O-Rama
Always a Benefit!
Sliding Scale Admission

At the Town Hall
Wendell, Massachusetts

Mahar School Committee Meeting

On Tuesday, September 7 there was a Mahar School Committee meeting with a presentation by the Building Committee. Call our Wendell representative, Jean Forward, 544-7502 for information.

Lost Class Ring

Mahar class ring–2000, lost at the Town Playground. It is black onyx and football. Call Jesse if found, 544-7561. Reward.

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